Gym Floor Inspection Checklist

WHAT TO LOOK FOR AND WHEN

A gym floor inspection helps identify potential safety hazards, moisture problems, finish wear, and structural concerns before they lead to more costly repairs. Developed by Gym Floor Resource for athletic directors, facility managers, custodians, and contractors responsible for maintaining hardwood gym floors, and based on guidance from the Maple Flooring Manufacturers Association (MFMA) and leading sports flooring manufacturers.

FACILITY	INSPECTOR	DATE	COURT OR GYM

Room Conditions

MFMA recommends keeping indoor temperature between 55°F and 75°F and relative humidity (RH) within a consistent range spanning 15 percentage points, such as 35% to 50%. Regional examples: 25% to 40% in dry Southwest regions, 35% to 50% in the Midwest, and 50% to 65% in humid coastal regions. These are regional examples, not universal requirements. Follow the environmental requirements established by your flooring manufacturer or sports flooring contractor.

Date	Time	Temperature (°F)	Relative humidity (%)	Initials / notes

Walk-Through Checklist

Tick each item as you inspect it.

		WHAT TO LOOK FOR	WHY IT MATTERS	WHAT TO DO
Daily				
☐	1	**Dust, grit, and debris on the playing surface**	Dirt and grit act like abrasives and can scratch and dull the finish.	Dust mop with a properly treated dust mop. Heavily used floors may need it up to three times a day.
☐	2	**Spills, standing water, and wet footprints**	MFMA calls water a wood floor's worst enemy.	Wipe up right away with a thoroughly wrung soft cloth. Avoid wet mopping.
☐	3	**Walk-off mats at every entrance**	Mats catch dirt, moisture, and salt. Mats left down too long can trap moisture or discolor the floor.	Remove and clean the mats daily, and check the floor underneath.
☐	4	**Heel marks and scuffs**	Marks build up and make the floor look worn.	Remove with an approved floor cleaner on a soft cloth or dust mop.
☐	5	**Slippery areas and loose or raised boards**	These can be safety hazards. Household cleaning products can leave a floor sticky or slippery.	Use only cleaners approved for your finish. Restrict access to loose or raised boards and contact a qualified sports flooring contractor.
☐	6	**Room temperature and relative humidity**	Maple expands in humid air and shrinks in dry air.	Record the reading. MFMA recommends 55°F to 75°F and RH held within a 15% range, such as 35% to 50%.
Monthly				
☐	7	**Gaps between boards**	Some gaps are normal in dry months. MFMA considers a gap that fits a quarter excessive.	Note the location and RH. If wide gaps persist while the room stays in range, contact your flooring installer.
☐	8	**Tightening, raised board edges (cupping), raised centers (crowning), or ridges**	These come from a moisture imbalance in the boards.	Fix the cause of the moisture imbalance (water below the floor or overly dry air above) and let the floor equalize. Call your contractor before any sanding or repair.
☐	9	**Buckled or separating flooring, significant board movement, or raised areas**	Buckling occurs when flooring lifts or separates from its normal position, often as a result of excessive moisture or expansion.	Restrict access and contact your sports flooring contractor. Do not sand until the moisture source has been addressed, the floor has stabilized, and a qualified contractor has evaluated it.

		WHAT TO LOOK FOR	WHY IT MATTERS	WHAT TO DO
Monthly (Continued)				
☐	10	**Leaks at doors, windows, roof, drains, and downspouts**	Leaks put water on or under the floor.	Check after wet weather and have leaks corrected right away.
☐	11	**Expansion voids, wall base, columns, and floor inserts**	These spaces let the floor expand and contract. MFMA notes perimeter voids also ventilate the floor system.	Remove debris and keep the spaces clear. Do not block them with stored equipment.
☐	12	**Areas where the ball bounces low**	MFMA defines a dead spot by low ball rebound, not by sound.	Mark the spot on a court diagram (not with tape) and report it to your sports floor contractor.
☐	13	**Squeaks**	Some squeaks are normal while a new floor acclimates, but some can point to a subfloor problem.	Log the location. Contact your sports flooring contractor if squeaking is persistent or unusual.
☐	14	**Finish that is worn through, peeling, flaking, or slippery**	Finish protects the wood and affects traction. MFMA notes peeling over painted areas is often tied to big humidity swings.	Report it and confirm the right cleaner and finish with your finish manufacturer or contractor.
☐	15	**Wheels on bleachers, carts, lifts, and portable goals**	Crowned or center-ridged wheels create point loads that can seriously damage the floor.	Inspect wheels before equipment enters the gym and protect the floor when moving heavy loads.
Seasonal and Breaks				
☐	16	**HVAC settings for weekends, holidays, and summer**	MFMA advises against shutting down ventilation for long periods.	Confirm unoccupied settings, check readings during the closure, and name who to call if readings drift.
☐	17	**Floor covers used for events**	Covers left in place too long can keep the maple from adjusting to the room.	Use covers only after the finish has fully cured, and limit how long the floor stays covered.
Annual				
☐	18	**Overall condition before the screen and recoat**	MFMA recommends an annual screen and recoat for most gym floors.	Note and report any damage that could cause injury. Measure and record temperature and RH before work starts.
As Needed				
☐	19	**Whole floor, edges, and entrances after water leaks, major events, or significant changes in indoor humidity**	Gym Floor Resource recommends additional inspections after water leaks, major events, or significant changes in indoor humidity.	Repeat the monthly checks and record the room temperature and relative humidity.

Synthetic and rubber sports floors: this checklist is designed primarily for hardwood maple sports floors. For synthetic and rubber sports floors, also check for separating seams, tears, surface bubbling, indentations, and loose or damaged sections. Always follow the flooring manufacturer's specific inspection, cleaning, and repair recommendations.

When Should You Close a Gym Floor or Call a Contractor?

These are Gym Floor Resource safety recommendations built on MFMA and manufacturer guidance. They are not MFMA requirements.

Conditions Requiring Immediate Attention

Restrict access to the affected area or close the court when necessary if you discover:

- Buckled, loose, or raised flooring.
- Splintered or damaged boards that could cause injury.
- Standing water or suspected water beneath the floor.
- Unusually slippery areas that cannot be corrected through routine cleaning.
- Significant floor movement or instability.
- Any condition that may compromise athlete safety.

Notify your facility manager and contact a qualified sports flooring contractor as appropriate.

Conditions Requiring Professional Evaluation

Contact your sports flooring contractor if you notice:

- Excessive or persistent gaps between boards.
- Cupping, crowning, or compression ridging.
- Areas with noticeably reduced ball rebound.
- Persistent or unusual squeaking.
- Peeling, flaking, or excessively worn finish.
- Damage to expansion areas or the subfloor system.

Consult your contractor before sanding, modifying, or making structural repairs to the floor.

Findings Log

Date	Location (court diagram)	Finding	Temp / RH	Photos taken	Corrective action	Follow-up (who, when)

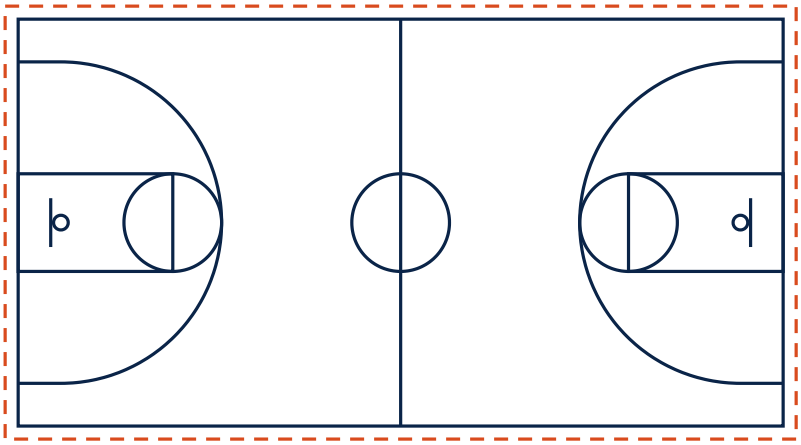
How to Record What You Find

MFMA recommends keeping maintenance records. For each finding, write down the date and inspector, the location (mark it on the court diagram using game lines as reference points), the room temperature and relative humidity at the time, photos (a wide shot and a close-up of the problem area), and the follow-up (who was notified and what was done).

Do not put tape on the floor to mark a spot. MFMA does not recommend tape on a finished maple floor because it can peel away layers of finish when removed, and adhesive resins can stain the finish or the wood.

Court Diagram

Side / entrance: _____



Opposite side: _____

Write the finding number from your log next to each problem spot.

----- Dashed outline: perimeter expansion void.

Sign-Off

INSPECTOR SIGNATURE	DATE	REVIEWED BY

Technical References

MFMA: Daily Floor Care
https://www.maplefloor.org/en/daily-floor-care/

MFMA: Frequently Asked Questions
https://www.maplefloor.org/en/flooring/

MFMA: Cupping, Crowning, Compression Ridging & Compression Set
https://www.maplefloor.org/en/cupping-crowning-compression-ridging-compression-set/

MFMA: Glossary of Terms
https://www.maplefloor.org/en/glossary-of-terms/

MFMA: Humidity and Temperature Guidelines
https://www.maplefloor.org/en/humidity-and-temperature-guidelines/

MFMA: When School's Out, Keep Your Sports Facility Climate Control On
https://www.maplefloor.org/en/when-schools-out-keep-your-sports-facility-climate-control-on/

MFMA: Screen and Recoat
https://www.maplefloor.org/en/screen-and-recoat/

MFMA: Floor Surface Protection
https://www.maplefloor.org/en/floor-surface-protection/

MFMA: Tape on a Maple Floor
https://www.maplefloor.org/en/tape-on-a-maple-floor/

MFMA: Inspection Services
https://www.maplefloor.org/en/inspection-services/

MFMA: Protect Your Athletic Floor Investment with Proven MFMA Floor Care
https://www.maplefloor.org/en/protect-your-athletic-floor-investment-with-proven-mfma-floor-care/

MFMA: 2025 Accreditation Program Study Guide (PDF)
https://www.maplefloor.org/uploads/files/shares/Accredited-Installers-Program/2025-MFMA-Accreditation-Program-Study-Guide.pdf

Robbins Sports Surfaces: Maintenance
https://www.robbinsfloor.com/maintenance/

Connor Sports: Wood Care Card (July 2026, PDF)
https://connorsports.com/sites/default/files/2026-07/Wood%20Care%20Card_July%202026.pdf

Full article with explanations: gymfloorresource.com/gym-floor-inspection-checklist/

This checklist is intended for routine facility inspections and does not replace a professional sports flooring inspection or manufacturer-specific maintenance requirements.